

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 IO-06 EUR-08 PM-03  
INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01 HA-02 SP-02 L-01  
DODE-00 ACDA-10 /057 W  
-----086760 122103Z /61  
P 121602Z MAY 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9588

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 07338

LIMDIS

E.O. 22652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, SREF, WA, SF  
SUBJECT: UNHCR SUPPORT FOR NAMIBIAN REFUGEES IN ANGOLA  
REF: GENEVA 7084

1. DURING SESSION REPORTED REFTEL, UNHCR REPS PETERS AND BWAKIRA WERE QUERULOUS THROUGHOUT, VOICING DISMAY AND IRRITATION THAT USG SHOULD PLACE ANY CREDENCE IN BEELD ARTICLE CONCERNING UNHCR ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO CASSINGA CAMP. AT LEAST TWICE DURING MEETING, THEY EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT BEELD ARTICLE WAS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO CREATE BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT JUSTIFICATION OF SOUTH AFRICA RAID. PETERS STATED THAT, IN FACT, SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLE, HE HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM LONDON FROM ALLEGED ENGLISH OR SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST, WHO QUERIED HIM CONCERNING ACTIVITIES AT CASSINGA CAMP, AND SOLICITED HIS REACTION TO SAME CHARGES WHICH LATER APPEAR IN BEELD ARTICLE. HE SAID HE REFUSED TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION OVER THE TELEPHONE AND URGED CALLER TO COME SEE HIM PERSONALLY, WHICH WAS NOT DONE.

2. MISOFF REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT HIS CALL DEMON-  
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STRATED, QUITE TO CONTRARY OF CREDENCE IN BEELD ARTICLE, USG DESIRE TO OBTAIN FROM RESPONSIBLE UNHCR OFFICIALS THEIR OWN VIEWS AND STATEMENTS AS TO ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES AT CAMP. MISOFF FURTHER DREW UNHCR REPS ATTENTION TO U.S. VOTE IN SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNING RAID, AND ITS VERY ACTIVE ROLE AS MEMBER OF CONTACT GROUP IN SEEKING EARLY AND PEACEFUL INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA. DESPITE

THESE ARGUMENTS, HOWEVER, UNHCR REPS CONTINUED TO EVIDENCE DOUBTS WITH RESPECT TO U.S. VIEWS CONCERNING THE NON-COMBATANT STATUS OF THE CAMP AND ITS OCCUPANTS, AS WELL AS ITS GENERAL POSTURE TOWARD NAMIBIAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT AND TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA. (PETERS DID ASK AT ONE POINT WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY POSSIBILITY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE THROUGH UNHCR FOR NAMIBIAN REFUGEES IN ANGOLA.)

3. UNHCR OFFICIALS CONTENDED THAT CASSINGA CAMP, REMOVED SOME 250 KILOMETERS FROM NAMIBIAN FRONTIER, WITH POOR TRANSPORT AND ROAD CONDITIONS, WOULD NOT CONCEIVABLY BE EMPLOYED AS OPERATIONAL GUERRILLA BASE FOR BORDER FORAYS. THEY ALSO MADE POINT THAT RELATIVELY PALTRY SUMS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH UNHCR WERE NOT NEEDED BY SWAPO TO PURCHASE WEAPONRY AND OTHER GUERRILLA REQUIREMENTS, SINCE THESE ARE READILY AVAILABLE AND SUPPLIED BY OTHER "FRIENDS," FROM THE EASTERN BLOC OR ELSEWHERE.

4. COMMENT: HIGHLY SENSITIVE, SUBJECTIVE REACTION OF THESE UN OFFICIALS TO STRAIGHTFORWARD APPROACH FOR INFORMATION AGAIN RAISES QUESTION OF ADVISABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ASSIGNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCT OF OPERATIONS WITHIN A GEOGRAPHIC REGION TO REPS INDIGENOUS TO REGION. END COMMENT.SORENSEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ALLEGATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014